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James I. It is a very severe satire on the age, of whose crimes the author speaks with honest and zealous indignation. It is composed in a mournful strain, as may be guessed from the title. He is very severe on the women, and gives them such a character, as, if true, perfectly warrants his angry reproaches.

He gives a ludicrous description of a country cully.

He descants with all the eloquent warmth of sincere feeling on the character of the famous Sidney. He is lavish in his praises of Elizabeth, though not with equal justice; and says, that if Solomon had lived in her time, he would himself have come to visit the Queen of the North.

Speaking of the licentiousness of the women, he humorously says,—"Had Job lived in our hours, he never should have needed to have made a covenant with his eyes, lest at any time they should looke upon a maid; for he should scarce have found any to looke upon."

No wonder, that with this opinion of the ladies, he recommends celibacy strongly.

I suspect that Milton had read this book, from a remarkable coincidence in the following passages.

"Throni, Dominationes, virtutes, Potestates, Principatus," says Stafford.

"Thrones, dominations, principdoms, virtues, powers," says Milton.

The Devil says, in Stafford: "Believe me, Sir, I had rather controule within my dark diocese, than to re-inhabit cælum empyrium, and there live in subjection, under check."

The Devil, in Milton, says:

"In my choice,

"To reign is worth ambition, tho' in hell:  
"Better to reign in hell, than serve in heaven."

Stafford shows a determined hatred of Popery in those days: he makes the Devil's chair of state supported by four Popes.

He uses the Devil with very little ceremony, and calls him by the following curious names:—"Don De-formity; Mr. Mouldy-face; Monsieur Madcappe; Mr. Blacksmith; Mr. Fierie Facies; Electour of Erebus; Grimme-yisaged Goblin; Bellowing Beelzebub; Mr. Divell; Mr. Filthy-face; Dr. De-

lusion; Old Hell-hounde, Great Marshal of Mischief; Great Soldan of Sin, &c."

The characters of the scholar and the soldier, are those which Stafford most admires, though he does not disguise the faults and miseries incident to each. His favourites seem to be Seneca; the Scaligers; Sir Philip Sydney; Henry IV. of France, and Elizabeth of England.

Grave and religious as he is, he is no enemy to a joke: his language is even more quaint than the language of those times, abounding with plays upon words, which give an air of drollery to the most solemn passages.

At the end of the work is a severe letter to a Romanist, who had written against his book. He treats his adversary with infinite contempt, and insults over him with true horse-play railery. He ends by saying that he should write no more "to please those who make pleasure their God."

*London, July, 1809.*

B.

*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

SIR,

MR. LEDWICH, in his antiquities of Ireland, allows us "eminence in nothing but music." He quotes Cambrensis to show, that at the time of the English invasion, we excelled in the science of music all other nations. This eulogium, he says, "the richness of our invention, the vivacity, beauty, and variety of our melodies, extorted from him." And Mr. Ledwich seems to have allowed applause to be extorted from him too, in this instance. Now, Mr. Editor, it strikes me very forcibly, that such refinement in this science is incompatible with such a state of barbarism as we are represented, by Cambrensis, to have been found in by the English; and contrary to our experience of any country which we at present denominated barbarous.

I am surprized that a man like Mr. Ledwich should so implicitly follow Cambrensis, whom I cannot look upon in any other light than that of a man endeavouring, like too many of his countrymen at the present day, in all things to calumniate and misrepresent us. But the power of our music he could not resist; he was forced to ac-

knowledge, that it possessed charms to soothe his breast, attuned to strains of sorrow by the wrongs inflicted on our countrymen, the tones of our harp had such an effect upon his heart, as to force him to write what he has written upon the subject.

Notwithstanding the many far-fetched arguments, which Mr. Ledwich brings forward to reconcile this with the general tenor of his work, which seems to be, to point out to us our inferiority to the British nation, and the gratitude we owe to them for coming amongst us to be our teachers, yet if what he says be true (which we have more than one reason for doubting) that "it is not an ill founded opinion, that the Irish, in 1377, were as uncivilized as the savages of North America," I cannot believe that we could have arrived at that state of refinement in the science of music, which Cambrensis allows us to have done; and on the other hand, it is not to be believed, that he would have given us this applause, if (as Mr. Ledwich says) our superior skill in it had not extorted it from him. If this reasoning be just, it will follow, that this nation was not so barbarous at the time of the English invasion, as it is by some represented to have been. A.

*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

SIR,

I HAVE of late turned my attention to the causes of the sickness, so frequently fatal to Europeans, who visit the hot climates of Africa, the West Indies and America, with a view to ascertain whether all-bountiful Nature had not, along with this evil, provided a counterpoising remedy, in like manner as she has bestowed cures for the poison of the scorpion and rattlesnake, wherever these creatures are found; and, by means of the dreadful tornado, rendered the air salubrious and healthful in the countries subject to it. The result given in the following hints, I hope will not be unacceptable to the public; most happy if they shall be the means of preserving the life of a fellow-creature, and of dissipating in part that gloom which overspreads the fairest fields for commercial enterprise that the world affords.

Man is the only animal which yields to the baneful effects of climate, if we except the few which he domesticates and feeds, according to his convenience, or ideas of fitness; the rest of the animal creation, prompted by that instinct which reasoneth not, and therefore cannot deceive, partakes of a provision which an all-wise and beneficent Creator never fails to make for his creatures, wherever the climate renders it essential to their preservation.

This is nothing more or less than common *Salt*, which surrounds the islands in the form of briny waves, and is found on the inland parts of the Continents in salt-springs, marshes, rocks, and plains covered with salt.

At the approach of the sickly season, all the birds, beasts, serpents, and insects of the forests and plains, travel to, and eat greedily of this salt, for a continuance of days, and the effects are precisely similar to that which is seen every year, in our latitudes, on salmon; after they have visited the ocean for a similar purpose, they become not only proof against the unhappy vicissitudes of climate, but attain a degree of freshness, strength, and beauty, to which they were previously strangers.

If such are the effects of salt on other animals, why may not man receive from it a similar benefit? In the most unfavourable view it cannot do harm, and even he that is least sanguine of its success, will acknowledge it to deserve a trial.

Perth, July, 1809.

P. T.

*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

SIR,

I HAVE read, with infinite pleasure, a number of excellent papers in your Miscellany, on the subject of Education, and National Schools, and was in expectation, that before this time, some of the London, and other respectable publications would have also taken up the subject, and by exhibiting the plan of your correspondent *Simplex* (which appeared in your eighth number) to their readers, the attention of members of parliament, and all persons of influence, in every part of the United Kingdom, would have